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IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as provided in the following claims listing.

CLAIM LISTING:

1. (Cancelled).

2. (Cancelled).

3. (Cancelled)

4. (Cancelled).

5. (Cancelled).

6. (Cancelled).

7. (Withdrawn) A bobbin of coated monofilament dental tape, wherein said coating is substantially saliva soluble and comprises from between about 20% and about 120% by weight of said tape, wherein:

said bobbin is wound under minimum tension to produce bobbins with dimensions acceptable for use in dental floss dispensers when said bobbin is exposed to elevated temperature and/or elevated humidity,

said coating is conditioned during bobbin winding to impart a tack value to the bobbin from between about 0.1 and about 0.5 grams, and

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said bobbin unwinds substantially free from deformation and coating displacement when said bobbin is exposed to elevated temperature and/or elevated humidity.

8. (Withdrawn) A bobbin of coated monofilament tape suitable for use in a dental tape dispenser, wherein said saliva soluble coating comprises from between about 20% and about 120% by weight of said monofilament tape, and said coating is conditioned during bobbin winding and has a bobbin unwinding value from between about 0.1 and about 0.5 grams.

9. (Withdrawn) A bobbin of coated monofilament tape wherein said coating is saliva soluble and comprises from between about 20% and about 120% by weight of said monofilament, wherein:

said tape coating is conditioned prior to bobbin winding such that the wound bobbin has a tack value between about 0.1 and about 0.5 grams, and

said coated tape is wound onto said bobbin at minimum tension allowing the bobbin to remain substantially dimensionally stable with minimum coating displacement when said bobbin is exposed to elevated temperature and/or elevated relative humidity.

10. (Withdrawn) Bobbins of coated monofilament tape according Claim 9, wherein said bobbin is provided with a dynamic core means that responds to compression forces created by elevated temperatures by changing its diameter thereby allowing the core to remain substantially dimensionally stable with minimum coating displacement.

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11. (Withdrawn) Dimensionally stable bobbins of coated monofilament dental tapes, wherein the tape and its coating are protected from exposure to elevated temperatures and elevated relative humidity by being wound under a minimum of tension with a tack value from between about 0.1 and 0.5 grams.

12. (New) In a process for bobbin winding coated monofilament dental tapes, wherein the coating comprises two or more coating materials, and wherein the coating amount ranges from between about 20% by weight and about 120% by weight of said tape;
the improvement comprising:

employing a coating conditioning means in combination with a decelerating winding speed tape tension control means to maintain essentially constant tension on the coated monofilament tape as it is bobbin wound;

wherein the conditioning means comprises a controllable heat surface for contacting and warming the coating and the tape to a temperature just below the softening temperature of the coating, prior to bobbin winding.

13. (New) The process of Claim 12, wherein the bobbin after winding has a tack value between about 0.1 and about 0.5 grams.

14. (New) The process according to Claim 12, wherein said coated monofilament tape is selected from the group consisting of polytetra-fluoroethylene, elastomer, bicomponent and homopolymer tapes.

15. (New) The process according to Claim 12, wherein the coating conditioning means further comprises a source of directed energy selected from the group consisting of radiant heat, lasers, radio frequency and combinations thereof targeted onto the bobbin during winding.

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16. (New) In a process for bobbin winding coated monofilament dental tapes, wherein the coating comprises two or more coating materials, and wherein the coating ranges from between about 20% by weight and about 120% by weight of said tape;

the improvement comprising:

employing a coating conditioning means in combination with a decelerating winding speed tape tension control means to maintain essentially constant tension on the coated monofilament tape as it is bobbin wound;

wherein the coating conditioning means comprises a controllable heating zone through which said coated monofilament tape passes prior to bobbin winding, to warm the coating and the tape to a temperature just below the softening temperature of the coating.

17. (New) The process of Claim 16, wherein the bobbin after winding has a tack value between about 0.1 and about 0.5 grams.

18. (New) The process according to Claim 16, wherein said coated monofilament tape is selected from the group consisting of polytetra-fluoroethylene, elastomer, bicomponent and homopolymer tapes.

19. (New) The process according to Claim 16, wherein the coating conditioning means further comprises a source of directed energy selected from the group consisting of radiant heat, lasers, radio frequency and combinations thereof targeted onto the bobbin during winding.